

$$a^2_{\text{cont}}$$

22444	22445	22446	22447	22448	22449	22450	22451	22452	22453	22454	22455	22456	22457	22458	22459	22460	22461	22462	22463	22464	22465	22466	22467	22468	22469	22470	22471	22472	22473	22474	22475	22476	22477	22478	22479	22480	22481	22482	22483	22484	22485	22486	22487	22488	22489	22490	22491	22492	22493	22494	22495	22496	22497	22498	22499	22500																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2

**Please substitute the following claim 6 for the pending claim 6:**

6. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein an ester bond is formed using a crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of bis epoxides and poly epoxides under acidic conditions.

**Please substitute the following claim 7 for the pending claim 7:**

7. (once amended) A process according to claim 5 wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of 1,2,3,4-diepoxybutane and 1,2,7,8-diepoxyoctane.

**Please substitute the following claim 8 for the pending claim 8:**

8. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein an ether bond is formed using a gluteraldehyde cross-linking agent under acidic conditions.

**Please substitute the following claim 9 for the pending claim 9:**

A<sup>2</sup>  
cont

9. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the crosslinking of each type of functional group is effected sequentially.

Please substitute the following claim 11 for the pending claim 11:

11. (once amended) A process according to claim 9 wherein HA is first cross-linked via the hydroxyl groups by formation of ether bonds and subsequently cross-linked via the carboxyl groups by formation of ester bonds.

Please substitute the following claim 12 for the pending claim 12:

12. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the crosslinking of each type of functional group is effected simultaneously.

Please substitute the following claim 13 for the pending claim 13:

13. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 for preparing double crosslinked HA.

Please substitute the following claim 15 for the pending claim 15:

15. (once amended) Multiple cross-linked HA obtainable by a process according to claim 1.

Please substitute the following claim 17 for the pending claim 17:

A<sup>7</sup> 17. (once amended) Cross-linked HA according to claim 15 wherein the crosslinking bonds are two or more selected from the group consisting of ether, ester, sulfone, amine, imino and amide bonds.

Please substitute the following claim 18 for the pending claim 18:

A<sup>8</sup> 18. (once amended) Multiple cross-linked HA according to claim 15 in the form of a film.

Please substitute the following claim 19 for the pending claim 19:

A<sup>9</sup> 19. (once amended) Multiple cross-linked HA according to claim 15 in the form of a gel.

Please substitute the following claim 20 for the pending claim 20:

A<sup>10</sup> 20. (once amended) HA according to claim 15 which is double cross-linked HA.

Please substitute the following claim 21 for the pending claim 21:

A<sup>11</sup> 21. (once amended) A product comprising multiple cross-linked HA according to claim 15.